

Lord Caradon: The Middle East is passing through its gravest hour

By Alan Martiny
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 29 -- The dangers to peace in the Middle East are greater than at any time in the past because of the issues which Camp David has failed to resolve, the chief architect of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, Britain's Lord Caradon, warned during an interview with the Jordan Times over the weekend here.

"The dangers are very great. They're greater than at any time I remember. Since Camp David there has been the hardening of positions of what I would call, the rejectionists on both sides," Lord Caradon said.

"It seems the right action now is to go back to the United Nations to deal with the issues Camp David did not deal with before the deadlock closes in on us."

Lord Caradon, who first became acquainted with Palestine in the thirties as an administrative officer of the British Colonial Service and later in life as the British representative to the United Nations, drafted and shepherded through the famous Security Council Resolution 242 in November 1967. He has repeatedly returned to the Middle East and has just concluded an active week on the West Bank talking to the mayors

sequences of the Camp David agreements, according to Lord Caradon, is that they have split the two superpowers into the dangerous position of possible confrontation, with the United States supporting Israel and the USSR supporting the Arabs and the Palestinians. From 1967 to 1977 the two superpowers were in agreement on the policy to be followed in the Middle East as a result of their joint support of Resolution 242.

But the document signed at Camp David, the exchange of letters between the three parties and the subsequent public statements of Prime Minister Begin, he feels, threaten to divide the Arabs and, even more serious from the international aspect, place the two superpowers at odds.

"The Israeli position has very greatly hardened since Camp David," Lord Caradon said. "Statements made by the prime minister of Israel since Camp David are the most rejectionist we've ever heard, with a demand that there should be a big increase of settlements on the West Bank and Gaza."

"And now increased violence is taking place. Almost every day I was in Jerusalem there was news of bombs in the markets or shooting in the northern frontier as retaliation by the Israelis."

As he left Jerusalem the headline in the Jerusalem Post was "Decision by Israel to hit civilian targets in order to stop terror." Lord Caradon remarked: "This is the most extraordinary statement; to stop terror by hitting civilian targets."

"And we hear what went on in Damascus between George Habash and the leadership of the PLO, where again he challenged the leadership. Apparently he was not successful. But he nevertheless will very greatly increase his authority if present hopes for peace do not reach fruition."

The situation in Iran may also have strong repercussions, he noted. "One Palestinian leader told me that in the past they turned to Arab states for support. Now they expect there will be further and more valuable support from the whole world of Islam."

The Iranian decision to discontinue oil supplies to Israel, they think, is a sign of a new policy on behalf of the Islamic states everywhere."

The hardening of positions between the Israelis and Arabs, between East and West, and emergent trends in the area make for a very alarming situation, he stressed.

Commenting on Begin's autonomy plan for the West Bank, Lord Caradon said West Bank mayors told him that full autonomy is just what they want. "We always have wanted it, provided it means self-determination, provided it means what it says. Full autonomy means you settle

your own affairs within your own territory. If it means what it says, we could take it. But if it means we are going to have five years when they can put any settlement they like in the West Bank and if they're going to take away our water, that's not full autonomy. We couldn't take it on those conditions," he quotes them as saying.

Lord Caradon feels there is much to be said for the view of those who believe the Israelis are determined to prevent any advance toward self-determination. "These statements which are made by Begin at this time seem to be directed at making any advance impossible," he said.

In order to assess the hopes for a solution, Lord Caradon began with what he sees as first principles. What is it the Palestinians want?

"I talked to the mayors, to the notables and to the townspeople of the villages to find out what they felt. I was encouraged to find that there are basically three positive purposes of the Palestinians," he said.

The Palestinians long for a country of their own, a government of their own and a capital of their own.

"These don't seem to be unreasonable demands," he feels. "What people in the world would ask for less? I believe it is important to convey to the wider world that the Palestinians are not rejectionists. They're not people who only use the word 'no'. They are people with very positive purposes. And I think these three positive purposes will increasingly be known and be respected in the world."

This he feels is a good basis to begin with. "The central matter which was not dealt with at Camp David was the future of the Palestinians and their capital, Jerusalem. It's got to be faced and dealt with," he stressed. "It can't be pushed aside. They should be entitled, as anyone else, to their own decisions, their own determination. That wasn't what was given to them at Camp David. In fact it was taken away from them."

"Now what can be done about it?" he questioned. "Camp David didn't even mention the word Jerusalem. So it seems the right action now is to go back to the U.N."

He does not suggest a sudden meeting of the Security Council and an emotional display, but that all parties get down to work within the United Nations forum.

"That's what it's for," he says. "You can pick up the telephone and speak to any representative in any part of the world in half an hour. There doesn't have to be any dramatic, subtle diplomacy. You can walk down the street and talk to the next man."

The PLO is represented there too. There don't have to be fiery debates as to whether the PLO should be heard, because they're

commission to recommend to the Security Council secure and recognised boundaries for Israel and neighbouring Arab states--having heard representations from all concerned--to be followed by a decision by the Security Council and withdrawal of Israeli troops to the new boundaries.

4) A two-year U.N. trusteeship of all "released" territories on the West Bank of Jordan (including Gaza and East Jerusalem).

(Editor's note: In the Jan. 19, 1979 issue of the London-based publication Middle East International, Lord Caradon speaks of "a plan for Jerusalem, not to divide the city but to bring together Israeli Jerusalem and Arab Jerusalem in understanding and co-operation.")

5) Self-determination for the Palestinians in the released territories of the West Bank with early elections of their own leaders, followed by decisions on their future constitution and relations with their neighbours.

6) Maximum international guarantees for the security of Israel and neighbouring states with provision where necessary for demilitarised zones and United Nations supervision.

"As soon as these provisions are accepted the Geneva conference could be reconvened under United Nations auspices with the continued joint chairmanship of the United States and the Soviet Union and with the same membership as before," Lord Caradon stated, "but with the addition of the newly-elected representatives of the Palestinian people, to prepare plans and international guarantees to ensure future security and to prepare and sign a treaty of peace."

Lord Caradon proposes a timetable for the implementation of the plan consisting of five points.

1) An immediate end to all violence and all settlements in Arab lands.

2) An impartial boundary commission should then be

appointed by the secretary of the United Nations concerned and to propose and recognised boundaries between Israel and neighbouring states, the purpose being adjustment of the boundaries, not for the sake of territory but for mutual convenience and advancing commission should report three months to the Nations Security Council council should take into account the new boundaries and currency of all the members of the council.

3) Thereupon the land should withdraw within a period of three months boundaries with a United trusteeship being established the West Bank including Strip and East Jerusalem period of two years and United Nations power force taking over final forces.

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Hassan Ibrahim carries King's message to Bahraini ruler

AMMAN, Jan. 29 (JNA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim left for Bahrain today on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa.

Mr. Ibrahim told the Jordan News Agency before departure that he will deliver to the Bahraini ruler Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa a message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the latest Middle East developments and current Arab affairs.

He will also hold talks with Sheikh Mohammad on bilateral relations and Arab affairs.

Coming & Going

Civil aviation delegation back from Ivory Coast

AMMAN, Jan. 29 (JNA)—A delegation from the Directorate of Civil Aviation led by Director General Sharif Ghazi Rakan returned here today at the end of a week-long visit to the Ivory Coast. During the visit, Sharif Ghazi Rakan had a civil aviation agreement between Jordan and the Ivory Coast. The agreement enables Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, to operate flights between Amman and Abidjan.

Students from Qadisiya University of Iraq

AMMAN, Jan. 29: group of visiting students Qadisiya today called at the University of Jordan and Dean of the Faculty of Science, Department Dr. Mahmud Ghoul who briefed the history of the university students from various departments of the University today left for Saudi Arabia to visit its educational institutions.

Mettle fatigue

The Camp David framework for peace in the Middle East is showing definite signs of strain following U.S. special envoy Alfred Atherton's latest rescue mission.

The problem is not only that Egypt and Israel are bogged down in disputes over legalistic fine points of some of the articles of the Camp David accords. The exasperated American middlemen have repeatedly pleaded for patience and understanding from critics of the plan during this delicate phase of the negotiations; we do not think it is churlish to argue that such tinkering with an essentially faulty framework is not necessarily going to make it a better one, or that sympathy with the difficult mediatory role which the United States has taken upon itself does not necessarily mitigate our doubts about the wisdom or correctness of that role in the first place.

The real problem, as Mr. Atherton himself is finding out, is Israeli intransigence. The envoy may have gone back to Washington with Israeli assurances of a willingness to continue negotiating ringing in his ears, but he must by now be beginning to realise what we have been saying all along: that Israel is playing for time; that it has no intention of signing a treaty that requires it to yield more than it gains; and that it is determined to see that the blame for the "breakdown" of the whole process falls on the Egyptians and Americans.

No, as Lord Caradon states in our interview with him today, it is the Israelis who are the real rejectionists, and it is time the world knew it. The present phase of negotiations is foundering on Israel's blanket rejection of any attempt, however feeble, to link a peace treaty with Egypt to a resolution of the central problem of the Palestinians. Israel set out to get, through a Camp David formula endorsed and midwived by the United States, a "settlement" that would destroy Palestinian aspirations for statehood and self-determination once and for all. If the Israelis are now balking because the treaty draft now under consideration does not guarantee them this end, then it is perhaps due to a welcome hardening of Egypt's previously lax and opportunistic stance on "linkage."

Obviously, all three parties are now trying to salvage what they can from this collapsed framework. Egypt and the United States should know, before they start trying to rebuild on the same foundation, that their presumed partner is really the saboteur.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Jordanian newspaper editorials Monday take up Mr. Alfred Atherton's unsuccessful mission in his latest shuttle between Israel and Egypt to solve the remaining snags in the two countries' draft peace treaty.

AL RA'Y thinks that Israel, as a result, may launch a large-scale aggression to create radical changes in the current strategic situation in the Middle East with South Lebanon or probably the whole of Lebanon as a model target for its neighbouring countries along the confrontation lines.

The newspaper goes on to say that while the U.S. administration appears unwilling to "rescue Israel in spite of itself" as George Ball once said in 1977, Israel wants to implicate the U.S. in spite of itself, in affairs not less dangerous than its involvement in the Vietnamese war, because conflict in the Middle East, whether we like it or not, takes place upon oil not powder, barrels. Hence it is the conflict over interests which would decide the area's crisis, the newspaper says.

AL DUSTOUR says that if President Anwar Sadat in his peace initiative was courageous enough to go to Jerusalem, he is called upon to invoke his courage and admit to Egypt and the Arabs that his bid over Israel's desire for peace was a deceptive illusion and that Israel's real aim is not peace but to isolate Egypt and swallow up Palestine.

WHAT'S GOING ON

American Film

The American Centre is showing two films today, the first at 6:00 p.m. and the second at 8:15 p.m. The films are Stanley Kramer's "Inherit the Wind" and John Ford's "The Informer," showing in that order.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents a film entitled "Das Provisorische Leben" by Manfred Bieler at 8:00 p.m. The film is subtitled in English.

Concert

The French Cultural Centre presents a piano and violin recital by Jean Dobreflewski (violin) and June Panfillon (piano) at the Haya Arts Centre at 8:00 p.m.

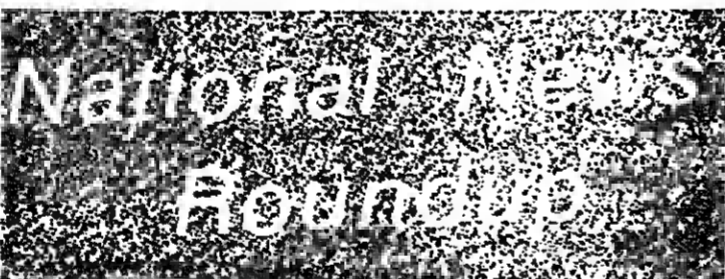


Lord Caradon

of Nablus, Tulkarm, Ramallah, Hebron, Gaza and many of his friends in Jerusalem, including Israelis whom he knew from the days he was in the mandated territories of Palestine.

He has just released a first draft for what he hopes might become a widely acceptable comprehensive Middle East peace plan, calling for a two-year U.N. trusteeship of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

"I've had the opportunity of forming impressions of the present state of the Middle East, of the dangers which are great and the possibilities which still exist in the search for peace," he told the Jordan Times in the interview before going to Damascus on the last leg of his Middle East tour. One of the most serious con-



Pan-Arab meeting on services to children opens in Amman

AMMAN, Jan. 29 (JNA)—Minister of Labour Issam 'Ajlouni opened here today a meeting of specialists on basic services for children in the Arab World. The meeting which is organised by the Arab League and the regional office of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is attended by representatives from the Arab League, UNICEF, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). Participants will discuss during the four-day meeting held at the University of Jordan a working paper presented from an Arab League specialist on basic services for children in the Arab World, and will work out a plan for carrying out studies on existing services for children in countries represented at the meeting.

Minister of culture to head delegation to Libya

AMMAN, Jan. 29 (JNA)—The Cabinet yesterday formed Jordan's delegation to the Arab ministers of culture conference to be held in Libya on Feb. 10. The five-man delegation to the four-day conference will be led by Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf. Among subjects for discussion at the meetings will be copyrights of Arab authors, and the delegates are expected to initial an Arab League-sponsored agreement for safeguarding copyrights.

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50 كذا عند الاجل

Abu Odeh says

Arab ministers form
six-member committee
on information policy

BAQA, Jan. 29 (Agencies)—Former U.S. President Gerald Ford and his wife Betty left here by air yesterday at the end of a 2-day private visit. They were seen off at Aqaba airport by His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor. The Fords visited yesterday the Nabataean city of Petra where Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Ghaleb Barakat briefed them on the Rose Red City's history and plans for its restoration. During his stay in Jordan, Mr. Ford held talks on Middle East developments with King Hussein and was briefed on the country's economic development by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

ing 1979 and the other concerns a long-term information strategy in the international field.

Though the Baghdad conference was in implementation of a resolution by Arab leaders at the recent Baghdad summit conference, the six-member committee will be coordinating its work with the information office at the Arab League, the minister said.

During the delegation's stay in Baghdad it met with the Vice Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Saddam Hussein, and Mr. Abu Odeh extended an invitation to his Iraqi counterpart Said Qassem Hammoudi to visit Jordan; a date for the visit will be fixed later on.

NCC debates public corporation
for development of Amman

By A Jordan Times
staff reporter

AMMAN, Jan. 29 (J.T.)—The National Consultative Council (NCC) today postponed till next week the debate of a draft law on the establishment of a public corporation for the development of Amman. The adjournment followed a lengthy dispute over the interpretation of some of the words in the draft law.

The NCC, however, approved the draft law for a public corporation for the development of Amman, the Housing Bank, and the Pension fund.

The idea is for the corporation to enjoy full financial and administrative independence from the Ministry of its establishment. It is to function on a sound commercial basis, cover its own expenses and pay dividends to its shareholders. It will be empowered to issue bonds to the public, to invest in real estate and generally to function like a normal commercial company. Profits in excess of 12 per cent will go to Amman Municipality.

Mr. Abu Odeh, while admitting that he had not personally seen the Golda Meir profile before it had been aired, replied he nevertheless approved the telecast although, he said, it was "a bit too long"—two-and-a-half minutes.

As to the film Khirbet Khaz'a, which shows Israeli soldiers committing atrocities when they captured the Arab village in southern Palestine during the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, Mr. Abu Odeh said he had personally watched the film when it was telecast from the Israel television in mid-February, 1978. Jordan Television had made a video tape recording from the Israel telecast, he said.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran addresses the NCC during its meeting in Amman on Monday. To Mr. Badran's left is Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh.

The minister of information said the film had raised a large-scale controversy in Israel which culminated in a Supreme Court ruling approving its telecast despite opposition by the minister of education and culture.

Mr. Abu Odeh indicated that the Khirbet Khaz'a film was shown on Jordan television on Nov. 28, 1978, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People "on my instructions because of my firm belief in the soundness of this choice which promotes awareness among the people of the occupied areas about Zionism, its aims and methods."

LOCAL

EXCHANGE

RATES

U.S. dollar	296.00/298.00
U.K. sterling	590.00/594.00
West German mark	159.50/160.50
Swiss franc	175.50/176.10
French franc	69.60/70.00
Italian lire	(for every 100)
Japanese yen	35.40/35.60
(for every 100)	
Dutch guilder	148.00/148.90
Belgian franc	147.90/148.80
(for every ten)	
Swedish crown	101.20/101.80
	67.80/68.20

TODAY'S WEATHER

The weather will be fair with light and variable winds. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate with calm seas.

Temperature	Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
Amman	3	18
Jordan Valley	11	21
Dead Sea	12	23
Jericho	4	19

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME OF COMPANY	Par value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Petroleum Co.	JD 5.000	5,257	6.570	6.580	6.580
General Cement Factories	JD 10.000	2,645	14.300	14.400	14.300
Banking Bank	JD 1.000	172	1.150	—	1.150
Jordan Gulf Bank	JD 1.000	3,068	1.040	1.060	1.040
Al-Jawda Development and Investment Co.	JD 1.000	6,930	1.960	2.000	1.980
General Mining Co.	JD 1.000	190	0.950	—	0.950
Electricity Co.	JD 1.000	1,350	1.340	—	1.350
Glass Factories	JD 1.000	364	0.760	0.800	0.760
Union Insurance Co.	JD 1.000	147	—	—	1.050
Investment Bank	JD 1.000	1,090	1.090	—	1.090
Jordan National Bank	JD 5.000	1,450	7.250	7.300	7.250
Arab Bank	JD 10.000	7,140	66.000	—	70.000
Cairo-Amman Bank	JD 5.000	650	—	6.500	6.500

Total volume traded, Monday, Jan. 29: JD 30,453

Total number of shares traded: 10,806

Par value	Volume traded	Number traded	Year of maturity	Selling price
JD 5.000	926	189	1980	5.150
JD 5.000	504	100	1982	5.040
JD 5.000	714	142	1983	5.035
JD 10.000	3,545	350	1987	10.130
JD 10.000	1,264	124	1988	10.200

Total volume traded: JD 6,953

PLO seeks new, closer ties with
Jordan, Palestinian official says

By Lee S. Tesdell

Special to the Jordan Times

DAMASCUS, Jan. 29—A top official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told the Jordan Times here yesterday: "We are looking to build a new relationship of brotherhood with Jordan on the basis of the Baghdad agreements and opposition to the Camp David accords."

Mr. Abdel Mohsen Abu Maizer, official spokesman for the PLO Executive Committee and head of the National Relations Department, spoke with the Jordan Times less than a week after

the end of the 14th annual session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC).

"We consider that the relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people are special." If "goodwill and determination" are implemented, "we will be able to solve all problems between the two peoples," he said.

Summing up the 14th PNC session, Mr. Abu Maizer called it "very positive" and said it was historic for two reasons. First, in its rejection of Camp David, which he termed "an American-Israeli solution against the interests of the Arab nation" and an attempt at the "complete liquidation of Palestinian national rights", and second because all political organisations in the PNC agreed to its political programme. A financial scheme was adopted for all organisation "under the supervision of the Palestinian National Fund", he added.

Mr. Farhan Abul-Hajja, a PNC member and director of information for Al Saika, the Syrian backed commando organisation, told the Jordan Times that the composition of the 15-member Executive Committee would stay the same as before. The approximately 50-member Palestinian Central Committee now for the first time has representatives of all eight Palestinian political groups, Mr. Abul-Hajja pointed out.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the PLO to be held after the PNC session was in Beirut last Thursday (Jan. 25), Mr. Abu Maizer said. It surveyed the results of the PNC meetings and discussed plans for implementing the resolutions. The PLO Executive Committee meets twice monthly or more often if necessary.

He said the PNC "still considers that the United States is not dealing with clean hands in the Middle East and is ignoring Palestinian rights."

American support of Israel, he said, is "against the interest of the Palestinian and Arab people."

Looking to the future, Mr. Abu Maizer warned that the consequences of American activities in Iran should serve as a "big lesson" in the Middle East. The "Zionist-American" programme goes against the current of history, he continued, but "our struggle is going with the current of history."

The PLO, he said will try to strengthen its ties with "Arab, Islamic, socialist and non-aligned nations". The PLO is a member of

the Bureau of Coordination of the non-aligned nations, he added.

On the subject of Syrian-Israeli rapprochement, Mr. Abul-Hajja said the PNC "welcomes and supports the new relationship" and believes it will "strengthen the Palestinian struggle".

Both officials agreed that closer relations with Palestinians in non-Arab countries are important. The PNC is "looking to strengthen relations with our people everywhere", Mr. Abu Maizer said.

The PNC continues to reject Security Council Resolution 242 but endorsed General Assembly Resolution 3.236 which, Mr. Abu

Maizer explained, emphasises Palestinian rights.

The PNC also decided to continue to promote educational opportunities for Palestinians. Mr. Abul-Hajja said. Scholarships to Palestinian students both from the PLO and from friendly countries are being coordinated by the PLO and Palestinian universities will be supported by the PLO, he said.

The PLO has survived crisis after crisis, concluded Mr. Abu Maizer, because it is not only a political and military organisation, but also the "conscience of the Palestinian and Arab people". This is the source of its strength, he said.

Queen Noor inspects
public services in Ma'an

MA'AN, Jan. 29 (JNA)—Her Majesty Queen Noor today toured the Governorate of Ma'an and visited health, education, and charity centres to assess services provided by these centres.

Queen Noor also chaired a meeting during which the development of the services

rendered to citizens was discussed. The meeting was also attended by Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar and officials of the governorate.

The Queen later visited the Ma'an government hospital and other places in the area, accompanied by Mr. Arar.

Archaeology club to meet

AMMAN, Jan. 29 (J.T.)—The Friends of Archaeology will hold its annual meeting at the auditorium of the American Centre near Third Circle on Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.

Dr. James Sauer will give a slide lecture, "Archaeology in Jordan for Everybody." He received a PhD in archaeology from Harvard University in 1973. Since 1974 he has directed the work of the American Centre of Oriental Research in Amman, a research and educational institute devoted to the study of Near Eastern archaeology, history, religions, and languages.

Mrs. Elisabeth Martin, treasurer, will collect dues for the coming year. General membership dues are JD 3 and university student dues are JD 1.

The club's first excursion of 1979 will be to Pella in the northern Jordan Valley. The site of one of the original cities of the Roman



Dr. James Sauer

Decapolis, it is currently being excavated by an Australian expedition under the direction of Dr. J. Basil Hennessy. Those interested should meet in front of the Department of Antiquities building on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 9 a.m. The public is cordially invited to attend the meeting and the field trip.

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The Government of Jordan has applied for a loan from the Ministry of Overseas Development of the British Government towards the cost of the project and it is intended that the proceeds of this loan will be applied to payments under the contract for which this invitation to tender is issued. The plant and equipment supplied under the contract must be substantially of British origin and manufacture. Tender documents will be available on 1st February, 1979 and may be obtained from either:

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or from the consulting engineers:
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on payment of JD 50.
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3 - Grand Palace Bookshop,
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*Price JD 5.000

Revolutionary method captures imagination

By Pat McDonnell
Special to the Jordan Times

DAMASCUS—Most of us want something special out of life—to achieve success professionally, to have a lovely home, to drive a Mercedes, woo beautiful women or capture a wealthy husband.

Borhan Bukhari's dream is to stamp out illiteracy in the Arab World.

So far, he's taught more than 10,000 adults to read and write through a system he's been developing since 1971.

After his studies at Damascus University, Mr. Bukhari tried his hand at becoming a playwright.

He had the exceptional good fortune of having one of his early attempts, "Wa Athma Al Walad," produced by the PLO in Syria, Yemen, Algeria and Iraq.

As the author of a successful drama, he had the opportunity to travel to the countries where it was produced. As a thoughtful man, closely involved in portraying the dilemma of life, his travels brought him to one conclusion:

"The defeats the Arab World has suffered since 1948 aren't military so much as psychological—on a socio-political plane.

"If we're to succeed in our struggle against Zionist aggression, we must have an educated, well-informed, articulate populace—as the Israelis have," he said.

"The more I traveled in Arab countries, the more I realised our foremost enemy is illiteracy. I

adult illiterate must be convinced that learning is easy, that because of his age and life experiences, he has judgement to rely upon that will help him to learn," he said.

"First of all, I did away with the word called teaching—the only action that takes place is self-learning. The teacher is merely an assistant to the learning process which the pupil discovers and makes his own judgements upon."

Mr. Bukhari began his literacy schools in centres of the Union of Syrian Women in and near Damascus, later at the refinery of Homs. The major breakthrough occurred in 1975, the Year of the Woman.

In three months, he taught 4,000 women to read in southern Lebanon.

What makes Mr. Bukhari's teaching programme different from traditional methods?

"First of all," he answered, "the Arabic language is a complicated structure that is virtually two languages, classical and vernacular, yet to read the written word, one must know classical Arabic. This doesn't happen in Greece, for instance, where classical Greek belongs to Socrates and other ancient philosophers and the people read popular Greek in their newspapers."

"Since the days of Ugarit, reading has been taught in Syria via the alphabetic system. I reorganised the Arabic alphabet and initially teach only six letters—H, M, A, R, F, T, S—all active letters that are spoken in all dialects.

"Secondly, I give the learner words that only employ these six letters. Whatever words I give them are words from the spoken dialect that are interchangeable with classical Arabic. Take, for example, the word for table—'lawlah'. It is used in both classical and vernacular Arabic.

"During the first lesson, the learner is given a book containing six pictures of an apple, donkey, pigeon and so on (see photo). All the words are classical words the learner speaks in his dialect. When he goes home that first day, he has the miraculous knowledge that he is capable of reading."

In discussing the success of his programme, Mr. Bukhari said: "You might compare the illiterate's problem to that of a person with a disease diagnosed as incurable. After taking various drugs and discovering they aren't helping, the patient refuses to try any further costly and painful medication. But, if he hears of a miracle cure, he'll travel half way around the world to try it.

"I've yet to meet an illiterate who isn't eager and anxious to learn," Mr. Bukhari said. "However, in the past, he's been frustrated by the conventional system. The learner must be rewarded and encouraged in his attempts, not criticised and embarrassed for making a mistake.

"When the illiterate discovers it is quickly possible to acquire reading skills, he is willing to sacrifice anything and invest any amount of money or time to learn."

The books, incidentally, that come with Mr. Bukhari's course are distributed at no charge. Nor is there a fee for his classes.

"My reward isn't so much the notoriety and invitations to go abroad and disseminate the idea," Mr. Bukhari said, "as it is the gratification that comes with the first expression of realisation and self-confidence the learner exudes when he realizes he can read in one day."

He recalled one of his first classes taught in a factory in



Village women gaining the first insight into comprehending the written word in a class taught by Borhan Bukhari.

غرض التمرين معرفة الكلمة في كل من الحروف الأربعة. نأخذ بعد ذلك من أن الدرس أصبح قادراً على قراءة جميع الكلمات ألقياً وعمودياً

حَمَام	رُمَح	رِمَاح
حِمَار	حَفَرَت	حَفَرَت
رُمَح	رِمَاح	حِمَار
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حَفَرَت	حِمَار	حَمَام
حِمَار	حَمَام	رِمَاح
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التمرين الأول

ح م ا ر ف ت



Damascus, 11 kilometres outside the city.

"The Union of Syrian Women had announced the classes, but no one came for several days. When I learned one of the janitors was illiterate, I sat down with him and after a few hours, he'd learned the six letters and was reading words under the pictures.

"When the lesson was finished, the janitor exclaimed that reading was easy. He went home a very happy, enthusiastic man. The next day, he brought four people with him. The following day, I had 15 people in my classroom. At the end of the week, we had 90 pupils in one small room.

"Logistically, it was impossible to provide seating. What the people were competing for was LIGHT to READ by while they STOOD and received their lessons."

The time of year was January. Even though the reading class was transferred to a school, it was not heated or equipped for night classes.

"The people saw to it that the school was wired for electricity," he said. "As for the heating problem, each person said he'd bring two pieces of wood for fuel. It was quite a sight to observe 400 people approaching the school each night with his books under one arm and his two pieces of wood under the other."

Mr. Bukhari's literacy technique falls into a three-phase programme:

Phase I: 30 to 40 days of grasp-

ing the basic of reading and writing. During this period, the learner identifies the letters of the alphabet and the meaning of words in the criteria.

Phase II: 30 to 40 days of learning classical written Arabic, at this point, the learner departs from interchangeable words and acquires a new vocabulary necessary for reading the printed word.

Phase III: 90 days of practical reading newspapers and books and learning arithmetic.

"It's crucial that the learner identify with his subject matter during Phase III," Mr. Bukhari said. "The illiterate is aware, listens to radio and watches even in the most remote village, he is expected to read in fashioned primers that talk about Dick and Jane and their dog or about locomotives in English he loses interest. The learner will be given subjects, his identity with."

In keeping with this, Mr. Bukhari has three texts in use. One deals with the daily life problems of the farmer, one is the life of the village woman, one with the experiences of a factory worker.

His books already in print, the "Bukhari Dictionary," employs only words used in classical and vernacular Arabic, a topical primer and a book of arithmetic.

"Even without my subject matter texts yet to be published, a learner can within six months 30,000 words and express himself in writing," he said.

Despite governmental reservations about his revolutionary techniques, Mr. Bukhari is receiving recognition. He has been officially invited to begin February to deliver lectures on literacy programme for six years.

His biggest project is in 1980. "If negotiations prove we'll have illiteracy wiped out

An example of Borhan Bukhari's first lesson in teaching adults to read. Only six active letters from the Arabic alphabet are employed. These six letters, compiled in words used in classical and vernacular Arabic, are taught under pictures. In one lesson, a learner can read simple words

the Gulf by 1981," he said. The master plan calls for an educational station with 11 waves broadcasting lessons hours daily.

"Each person can take his own and his transistor radio and offers his daily lesson per his radio. We also have plans for a special two-hour daily educational show on Kuwaiti TV," he said. Summing it up, Mr. Bukhari commented: "I don't claim to be a specialist in linguistics, nor wish to replace official literacy programmes, but my simple works."



Borhan Bukhari

began to ask myself why illiteracy still exists after 30 to 40 years of intensive governmental programmes to combat it.

"Official statistics may not report it, but 65 percent of the people in the Arab World are illiterate," he said.

"Again, my definition of literacy may differ from governmental prerequisites. The official definition stops at the task of a person being able to read and write his name. I maintain that a person must be able to read ideas and express his viewpoints in writing—not just read a primer—to be literate."

In 1971, Mr. Bukhari received a grant from the Union of Syrian Women to carry out some of his experimental ideas.

"It was a big risk; most of the financing came from my personal funds, but the Union of Syrian Women was open to my philosophy that the biggest obstacle confronting the training of adult illiterates is psychological.

"My basic principle is that the

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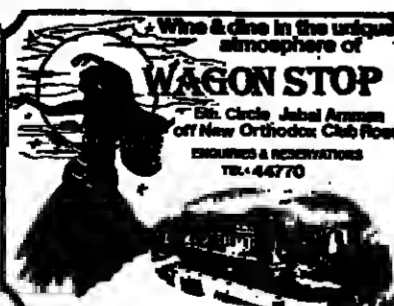
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As voters prepare to go to polls Rhodesia's whites 'deeply divided' over majority rule plan

SALISBURY, Jan. 29 (R) — The Rhodesian referendum campaign has entered its final stages, with the white minority evidently still deeply divided over whether to vote "yes" or "no" on government plans for a limited form of black majority rule. The 94,500 registered white voters, faced with the nation's most significant political decision since Rhodesia opted for illegal independence from Britain in 1965, showed no clear signs of swinging heavily one way or the other with polling day only 24 hours off.

Most of the confusion among whites has been caused by their not being confronted by a simple decision for or against majority rule.

They must decide between the biracial transitional government's scheme for a black-rule constitution heavily laced with continuing white power—which is bitterly opposed by Patriotic Front guerrilla forces—and a series of alternative solutions put up by the "no" vote camp.

The "no" campaigners range from those advocating continued white rule to others who say they support black rule but believe the transitional government, by failing to include the Patriotic Front in its proposed settlement, is providing a recipe for civil war.

The latter lobby believes a "no" vote would stop the Salisbury coalition in its tracks, force it to think again and perhaps turn to Anglo-American peace plans which embrace the guerrilla forces.

But the ballot paper makes no provision for qualifications either way: voters can only say "yes" or "no" to government plans.

Both sides insist they will win the day tomorrow. The "yes" campaigners, led by Premier Ian Smith predict anything up to a 70-30 margin in favour, while the "no" side forecast a rejection by up to 60 per cent of the electorate. Most independent political analysts see a "yes" vote with possibly a narrow margin.

The Sunday Mail—which has advocated a "yes" vote—yesterday appealed to South Africa, Rhodesia's only ally, to help Rhodesians make up their minds.

"Rhodesia depends heavily on South Africa," the Mail said in an editorial, "and we do not believe there is a single Rhodesian who would not welcome an official statement from Pretoria saying what will or will not happen in the event of a yes or no vote."

"South Africa is more than a neighbour and a friend—she is our lifeline. Both yes and no voters need to know whether that lifeline is secure."

The Mail devoted a full page to last-minute messages from campaign leaders.

In his message, Mr. Smith said a "no" would bring disaster. It

would destroy black-white goodwill within the country and alienate Rhodesia's friends outside, he said.

Black government leader Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole said a "no" vote would be a recipe for bitter conflict and would be seen as anti-black and anti-black be a recipe for bitter conflict and would be seen as anti-black and anti-majority rule.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa said a "yes" would indicate whites were prepared to create a peaceful society based on mutual respect between the races.

Pakistan attacks Bhutto regime as former premier awaits death

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 29 (R)—The Pakistan Government today published a new attack on the regime of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The latest government white paper, the fourth on various aspects of the former administration, came as the country awaited the Supreme Court ruling on Mr. Bhutto's appeal against a death sentence passed on him for ordering the murder of a political opponent. Bhutto supporters have claimed the reports were part of a campaign of character assassination against him before the court decision was made known.

The court has given no indication as to when it intended to deliver its ruling, but it was thought to be imminent. Units of the Pakistan army were moved

into positions in Mr. Bhutto's southern-most Sindh province and were also posted discreetly in the outskirts of Karachi.

Rumours of a decision in the Bhutto case and of consequent violence caused panic buying of food, but an official denied that curfew passes were being distributed in case they were needed.

Today's white paper said Mr. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party when in power turned the police into tools of assassination. Some victims were taken out of prison cells and killed in cold blood, it added.

The 135-page document did not link Mr. Bhutto personally with the murders it detailed during his five and half years in office, most of which have been published before. But it accused him of ordering intelligence agencies to prepare files on members of his party and his opponents, which ran to more than 8,000 pages.

The report accused Mr. Bhutto of using state agencies, from the intelligence bureau to the prime minister's secretariat, to serve his

whom said later they had no idea the plane had been hijacked.

Passengers said they were told on arriving in New York that they could not disembark immediately because there had been a problem at the gate. All but 19 adults and seven children stayed on the plane for six hours while authorities bargained with the hijacker.

Police said the woman handed over a 25-page "incoherent, religious type letter." A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) official said the woman told him she had unsuccessfully sought acting roles and her talents had been "overlooked," and that she wanted to talk to one of several film and television stars.

About two a.m. New York Time, an FBI agent negotiating with the hijacker suddenly grabbed her and a flight attendant took a white bag she said contained nitroglycerine. A bomb squad found the bag contained only perfume and other personal belongings.

NAIROBI, Jan. 29 (R)—Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi begins a three-day official visit to Ethiopia today for talks with the Marxist military leaders about cooperation and their shared intentions in the Horn of Africa.

The president, accompanied by a powerful delegation of about 18 ministers and officials, will be making his second trip outside Kenya since succeeding President Jomo Kenyatta who died last August. He visited Paris, Brussels and London in November.

Official sources said the Ethiopian head of state, Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, had invited President Moi to Addis Ababa to thank him for his support against a Somali invasion force from Ethiopia's eastern Ogaden region last year. Kenya offered transit facilities for Ethio-

Japanese police end lone gunman's bank takeover

OSAKA, Jan. 29 (R)—A 30-year-old gunman, critically wounded yesterday in a dramatic police raid to free 25 hostages he held in an Osaka bank, was pronounced dead nine hours later.

The gunman, Akiyoshi Umekawa, was taken to hospital after being shot in the neck by police, who stormed into the bank to end the siege 42 hours after it started on Friday afternoon.

All the hostages, seven men and 18 women, were rescued unharmed, though some of them were in serious states of shock and exhaustion after their ordeal, during which they saw Mr. Umekawa shoot four people dead with his shotgun, including two policemen.

Three other men were wounded by Mr. Umekawa and released earlier with several other hostages. One of them, 47-year-old bank clerk Sadao Takeuchi, told doctors he feigned death while a fellow hostage cut off his left ear on orders from the gunman. Mr. Takeuchi said the ears of the dead were sliced off at Mr. Umekawa's orders

as proof that they were no longer alive. The bank siege began when Mr. Umekawa, wielding a shotgun, raced into the bank and tried to rob it of \$256,000. Two male bank employees were shot dead when they tried to overpower the gunman; and two police officers who rushed into the bank were also killed.

He terrorised the hostages by screaming and firing the shotgun and pistols he took from the dead police officers. At one point, he threatened to kill all the hostages and commit suicide when police tried to let his mother talk to him.

The police raid was staged by a special group of 33 officers, including six marksmen. They swarmed into the bank from two directions, shouting "lie down" to the hostages and firing eight shots at the gunman.

Mr. Umekawa, who fell with two shots in the neck, underwent a three-and-a-half-hour operation to save his life but he was pronounced dead nine hours after his capture.

Security problems apparently cause Deng's tour to exclude New York, San Francisco

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (R)—New York City, the hub of America, is mysteriously absent from the itinerary of Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, who arrived in Washington yesterday on an official visit to the United States.

San Francisco will also not be seen by Mr. Deng, whose tour

takes in such lesser known centres as Seattle, Houston and Atlanta.

The reason, apparently, is to shield the Chinese leader from the strong anti-communist feelings in the "Chinatowns" communities of New York and San Francisco.

There was close consultation on security between Washington and Peking in the run-up to Mr. Deng's visit, and it is thought that U.S. officials feared demonstrations against the new era of Sino-American relations.

Feelings in the Chinatowns of New York and San Francisco were dramatically demonstrated in mass rallies in both cities on Jan. 1—the day full diplomatic relations between Washington and Peking went into effect. Pro-Taiwan rallies drew more supporters than the pro-Peking ones.

and in San Francisco police fought with demonstrators.

John Wang, a journalist who has worked on papers in New York's Chinatown, said pro-Taiwan Chinese nationalism is stronger than support for Peking in the Chinese communities of both New York and San Francisco.

Mr. Wang said this was part of a process that was not unusual in the political life of the American Chinese, who for years adopted anti-communist political stances as a means of Americanising themselves and avoiding suspicion. He said the normalisation of relations between the two countries would eventually end nationalist dominance in New York's Chinatown, but in the short-term tension would remain.

USSR 'concerned' over possible outbreak between China, Vietnam

MOSCOW, Jan. 29 (R)—The Soviet Union signalled this weekend that it shared apparent American concern that China might be planning a military strike against Vietnam and suggested any such move could start a new war in Southeast Asia.

The Soviet worry, expressed in different forms in the official media, appeared to be the first response to reported appeals through diplomatic channels from the U.S. to Moscow, Hanoi and Peking to show maximum restraint in the area.

Senior foreign diplomats in Moscow said American concern at

what Washington saw as an increasingly dangerous situation on the Chinese-Vietnamese frontier had been officially communicated to the Soviet Union in the past few days.

The diplomats, from several different embassies, said the main thrust of the American message was that Hanoi should refrain from any action that might provoke Peking into large-scale military action.

At the same time the U.S. made it clear to the Kremlin that it would strongly disapprove of any such action by China and expressed the hope that the Soviet

Union would not involve itself directly in any conflict, the diplomats added.

In an editorial yesterday, the Communist Party daily Pravda said there were grounds for reports in the American and Japanese press that China might be preparing a thrust into Vietnam, with which it has been involved in months of border skirmishing.

China had been "feverishly activating armed provocations" within the past few days, which were aimed "at sparking a military conflict in Southeast Asia," Pravda declared.

Kenyan president begins Ethiopia visit

personal and political ends.

It alleged that the now-disbanded federal security force used all forms of threats, coercion, murder and arson to keep people in line with the ruling party.

Somali ambassador in Nairobi last week called on President Moi. No details of the discussions were released.

Diplomatic sources here said there appeared to be no great significance for the internal or external policies of Ethiopia and Kenya.

He met Sudan's President Jaafar Nimeiri in Nairobi late last year. Trips to Somalia and Tanzania could be ruled out because of the political problems between them and Kenya, and a visit to Uganda is impossible because of the shaky internal security situation there.

The official Ethiopian News Agency said in a dispatch sent to Reuters in Nairobi that a "warm and tumultuous welcome" was being prepared for President Moi. Government and private offices were to be closed this morning so people could line the route into town from the airport.

future relations in the Horn and the chance for each leader to assess the other's political intentions, the meeting appeared to be a natural courtesy call by the new Kenya leader on his neighbour.

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Cuba's 'worms' become 'butterflies'

By Elgy Gillespie

HAVANA: The Cubans have a new name for the exiles who fled the 90 miles to the American mainland after Fidel Castro's revolution. For almost 20 years they have been known as "gusanos" or worms. Suddenly they have become "butterflies."

Jan. 1, 1979 marked the day when Cuba opened its doors to all exiles again according to the promise Mr. Castro made to a 75-member commission from the United States in December.

At the same time he agreed to release 3,000 political prisoners as well as 600 detainees who had tried to leave the island illegally and 1,500 ex-prisoners who have been accepted by Venezuela, together with their relatives.

All women are to be released and only serious offenders like those on charges of murder will remain inside the Combinado del Este, Havana's modern prison. Most of the long-term prisoners participated in armed uprisings, according to an amnesty memorandum.

The Cuban name for the prisoners-out and exiles-in deal is "family re-unification with members of the foreign Cuban

community"—or "Gusanos en mariposas": worms into butterflies.

Exiles are now crowding the lobbies of big Havana hotels and emotionally greeting long-lost members of their families whom they have not seen for 20 years. They are also bringing in foreign currency which Cuba so badly needs.

Head of the 75-member commission that represents the 700,000-strong exiled Cuban community in America is 48-year-old Jose Reyes, a Baptist minister in Palm Springs, Miami.

In the past few months only people who left before the revolution or who were less than 14 years of age were allowed back. Jose Reyes left at the age of 31 after the Bay of Pigs. Other members of the commission are priests like Manuel Espinoza or prominent businessmen like Bernardo Bezos, head of the Inter-continental Bank in Miami.

"There has been a very great change in attitudes now and that is what most Cubans in the U.S. would like to see," said Mr. Reyes in the lobby of the Havana Libre Hotel recently.

Although "family re-unification" has split the U.S. exiles, it is an

The exiles who fled Cuba for the United States used to be called "worms". But Mr. Castro's attitude has changed, and suddenly they find themselves transformed, officially, into "butterflies."

issue that has awoken in many of them a great hunger to see the homeland again.

Some of them are now proud of the manner in which their small Caribbean island of origin has battled against recurring disasters like the plummeting sugar price and the economic blockade.

They admire Mr. Castro as a tactician, and at the last dialogue they held with the Cuban leader at the beginning of December, the members of the commission (some of whom are ex-prisoners from the Bay of Pigs) actually sang the Cuban national anthem.

"Eighty-ninety per cent of Cuban exiles agree with our negotiations all the way. The

commission we have set up is a humanitarian one and our concern is the re-uniting of Cuban families," said Jose Reyes, "and some of our members have gone as far as to say they want Carter to lift the U.S. embargo on trade—but this blockade is none of our business just at the moment."

He had just returned from seeing his own parents in the town of Cienfuegos for the first time in 17 years. There had been no awkwardness of conversation, he said, and no delicacy about broaching the subject of politics either.

"Why shouldn't we talk about politics to other Cubans? My seven children are now Americans and work there and talk English at

home, but I have stayed a Cuban and eventually I'd like to retire here."

It is this emotional yearning which is bringing back the hundreds of exiles on \$200 round-trip tickets, some paying well over twice that amount on seven-day package tours—"butterflies with golden wings" indeed for the Cuban tourism industry.

But this, Mr. Reyes insists, is not the sole reason for Mr. Castro's sudden relaxation of detention laws. Nor, Mr. Castro himself has insisted, is the amnesty any kind of a concession to Mr. Carter's pressures on human rights issues, though he acknowledges that Mr. Carter has created the kind of climate in which negotiations can be made.

Even in his fighting 20th anniversary speech to the National Assembly on New Year's Day, when the head of United States commercial interests walked out during his impassioned onslaught on American foreign policy, he swiftly added: "We believe sincerely in the necessity for peaceful co-existence between different social regimes."

Commission members feel that his 20th anniversary speech, complete with its re-dedication of

Cuba to Soviet interests, will not have harmed their hopes in any way. "There are many reasons why Fidel is releasing the prisoners, but principally the revolution is not in danger and therefore there is no need to detain prisoners any more."

Mr. Reyes and his commission are more optimistic than many of the Cubans who stayed. He said: "This is the beginning of the end of Cuba's isolation. We are approaching a very big change in Cuban-American relations. At the end of it, full diplomatic relations will be resumed—and after that the embargo will have to be lifted because there is no case in history of a country embargoing another within a friendly situation."

That is a cheerier picture of the future than most Cubans are prepared to predict, and experienced observers in Havana cannot see it happening within the next twelve months. Nevertheless, the "worms turned butterflies" flying into Havana signal a new beginning for the two countries.

Financial Times
News-Features

Gunmen murder Italian magistrate

MILAN, Italy, Jan. 29 (R)—An Italian magistrate was shot dead today while driving to work and minutes later the Front Line guerrilla group claimed responsibility, police said. The magistrate, Emilio Alessandrini, was the deputy public prosecutor in northern city. Police said five gunmen took part in the night attack, driving up to the magistrate's car and then opening fire. The magistrate, hit in the neck, died instantly. He was the public justice official killed by urban guerrillas since 1971. Alessandrini presided over a number of investigations into political violence, including a bombing which killed 16 people here in 1969. He had also involved investigation of the Red Brigades, Italy's main guerrilla group.

Turkey calls in help to combat violence

HAMBURG, West Germany, Jan. 29 (R)—Turkish Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit was quoted today by the news magazine Der Spiegel saying that German and British experts were helping to combat political violence in Turkey. Asked by Der Spiegel whether German and British experts had been sent to advise the Turkish authorities, Mr. Ecevit replied: "Yes, we are working with German specialists and with Scotland Yard." About 1000 people died in political violence in Turkey last year. Mr. Ecevit, asked who was to blame for the death toll, said that leading politicians were supporting right extremists, who for years had been training in paramilitary units. He said that by the middle of 1977, right-wing extremists had infiltrated many branches of the administration, and thousands of key positions in the police, the customs and the health and education authorities. He added that his government had done what it could when it came to power to ease these right-wing extremists from public service.

Sri Lanka seeks Mideast oil supply

COLOMBO, Jan. 29 (R)—Sri Lanka is negotiating with a number of Mideast oil producers for immediate supplies to offset a crisis caused by oil from Iran being cut off, an official spokesman said. Before present upheaval, Iran supplied 60 per cent of Sri Lanka's requirements of 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil.

France continues nuclear project in Iran

PARIS, Jan. 29 (R)—Work on building two French nuclear power plants in Iran is going ahead and there has been no official word from the Iranian Government that they are cancelling the \$2.3 billion contract, the builders said today. A spokesman for Framatome, French engineering company which is building two 900-megawatt power stations on the Karun River, said the contract had been signed and could not be cancelled. He was commenting on a statement by Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiari that he was cancelling the order because the French power stations were expensive. "Work on the project is proceeding normally, and there have been some supply problems due to the troubles in the spokesman said.

Police find hideouts used by Red Brigades

TURIN, Italy, Jan. 29 (R)—Italy's anti-terrorist squad found hideouts used by left-wing extremist Red Brigades guerrillas, arrested six people including the suspected killers of a state security, police said yesterday.

One of the six was a foreigner. Police refused to give details of one security source said she was a West German girl from the Army Faction (RAF), living in Italy under a false name.

The six were picked up during dawn raids on 24 apartment buildings in this northern city by a 160-strong task force headed by the city's top guerrilla-hunter, General Alberto Chiesa.

In all, more than 50 people were detained but most were released, police said. No shots were fired during the raids. Two of those arrested, Maria Rosaria Biondi and Nicola Jentino, were wanted for the murder near Rome last November of a state prosecutor and his two-man escort. Ms. Biondi was girlfriend of Roberto Capone, a guerrilla gunman killed in the attack.

Lists found in one of the hideouts contained names of politicians, judges, and industrialists and layouts of several big factories, police said. Arms and radios were also seized.

The raids gave police an important breakthrough in the nationwide hunt for the Red Brigades and allied left-wing guerrilla groups.

But police did not claim that they found any of the leaders of these groups, which have killed at least 60 people and wounded more than 200 in Italy in the past four years.

Year of Ram is on its merry way

PEKING, Jan. 29 (R)—Millions of Chinese around the world ushered in the Year of the Ram with gaiety and merrymaking yesterday after a night of prayers, feasts and family reunions.

The Chinese capital reverberated to the sound of exploding firecrackers and coloured rockets as the Year of the Horse gave way to the Ram — symbol of filial piety, elegance, artistry and pessimism — at midnight Saturday.

The Chinese lunar calendar has a 12-year cycle with each year named after an animal. Nothing dims the Chinese fervour for the lunar New Year and celebrations continue for days. China's 900 million people have also started a four-day holiday, known as the Spring Festival.

Shops throughout China were particularly well stocked this year during the days leading up to the festival, while people have been urged to make the most of the holiday.

The festivities here were similar to those in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia as well as many smaller communities of overseas Chinese.

Although firecrackers are banned in Hong Kong, drums and gongs provided the traditional noisy welcome to the New Year.

In Taiwan, a carnival atmosphere prevailed as people throughout the nationalistic Chinese island set aside, at least on occasion, their concern over establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and China.

Despite their diplomatic back, the Taiwanese Year of the Ram is a year of unity.

Over 80 per cent of the island were closed on streets in Taipei were in with people visiting relatives exchange greetings.

Since last week, troops units on the offshore islands Quemoy and Matsu have large quantities of gifts in loops across the Taiwan to the Chinese mainland.

In Singapore, which is predominantly Chinese, the celebrations were quiet. The "highlights" of tomorrow when a huge number of colourful floats and bands will parade through the city.

Firecrackers are also banned in Singapore, but the government this year has given approval for electronic firecrackers.

Businessmen said, however, only a few people bought the devices.

"They don't explode," said a businessman. "The sound is more like a toy machine gun."

The traditional Chinese New Year's Eve dinner, known as the reunion dinner, was eaten at home.